



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wyoming State Office
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In Reply Refer To:
8300 (930) P

October 26, 2007

Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2008-007
Expires: 09/30/09

To: Field Managers
Attn: AFM's, Outdoor Recreation Planners, Wildlife Biologists, and Planning Staff
From: State Director, Wyoming
Subject: Implementation of Executive Order 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation
DD 11/5/2007

Program Areas: Recreation and Visitor Services, Fish, Wildlife & Plant Conservation, Planning and Science Policy.

Purpose: To provide information requested in Washington Office Instruction Memorandum (WO IM) No. 2008-006 (<http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/wo/fy08/IM2008-006.htm>) to launch implementation of Executive Order 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation (the Order). The Order directs the Department of the Interior and its component agencies, Bureaus, and offices *"to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat."*

Policy/Action: The Order directs agencies to address hunting opportunities, habitat management, to participate in the North American Wildlife Policy Conference and participate in the development of a Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan. The North American Wildlife Policy Conference is to be held within 1 year of issuance of the Order to facilitate the exchange of information and advice relating to the means for achieving the goals of the Order. The Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan is to be developed by the Council on Environmental Quality, in coordination with appropriate federal agencies and non-Federal Partners, within 1 year of conclusion of the Conference. The comprehensive Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan will incorporate existing and ongoing activities and set forth a 10 year agenda for fulfilling the actions identified in the Order.

The Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must identify the near and long-term actions currently ongoing or under consideration throughout BLM Wyoming that address the direction in the Order. Each Field Office will provide information as outlined on the attached table,

Wyoming Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation efforts. In addition, Field Offices should identify potential agenda items for the North American Wildlife Policy Conference and staff members who are available to serve on conference planning teams.

This information should be submitted to the Wyoming State Office, Resources Policy and Management and to the attention of Britta Hall.

Timeframe: This IM is effective upon receipt. This information should be received by the Wyoming State Office (WYSO) by close of business, November 5, 2007. The WYSO will consolidate the information and submit it to WO-250 as directed in WO IM No. 2008-006.

Background: On August 17, 2007, President Bush signed Executive Order 13443: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation (attachment 1). The BLM WO issued an IM regarding implementation of the Order on October 10, 2007. Wyoming BLM is responding to the information requested in the IM in order to ensure a coordinated approach to implementation.

Census data indicates that hunting participation has decreased in the past 25 years and is projected to continue to decline over the next 4 decades. The Order addresses the declining trends in hunter participation and seeks to ensure that hunting and hunters continue to play a central role in wildlife and habitat conservation in the future.

Coordination: This IM was coordinated within the WYSO R&PM.

Contact: If you have any question regarding this information request, please contact Britta Hall, Wyoming Recreation Lead at 307-775-6106, Dave Roberts, Wildlife Program Leader at 307-775-6099, or Ken Peacock, Planning Lead at 307-775-6329.

The information requested on attachment 2 should be sent to Britta Hall by COB

November 5, 2007 at Britta_Hall@blm.gov for consolidation and submittal to the WO. Three sample projects follow the blank project worksheet as guides for the field.

/s/ Robert A. Bennett

2 Attachments:

1 - Executive Order 13443 (2 pp.)

2 - Table, Wyoming Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation efforts (5 pp.)

Attachment 1

Executive Order: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this order is to direct Federal agencies that have programs and activities that have a measurable effect on public land management, outdoor recreation, and wildlife management, including the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.

Sec. 2. Federal Activities. Federal agencies shall, consistent with agency missions:

- (a) Evaluate the effect of agency actions on trends in hunting participation and, where appropriate to address declining trends, implement actions that expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public;
- (b) Consider the economic and recreational values of hunting in agency actions, as appropriate;
- (c) Manage wildlife and wildlife habitats on public lands in a manner that expands and enhances hunting opportunities, including through the use of hunting in wildlife management planning;
- (d) Work collaboratively with State governments to manage and conserve game species and their habitats in a manner that respects private property rights and State management authority over wildlife resources;
- (e) Establish short and long term goals, in cooperation with State and tribal governments, and consistent with agency missions, to foster healthy and productive populations of game species and appropriate opportunities for the public to hunt those species;
- (f) Ensure that agency plans and actions consider programs and recommendations of comprehensive planning efforts such as State Wildlife Action Plans, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and other range-wide management plans for big game and upland game birds;
- (g) Seek the advice of State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and, as appropriate, consult with the Sporting Conservation Council and other organizations, with respect to the foregoing Federal activities.

Sec. 3. North American Wildlife Policy Conference. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (Chairman) shall, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies and the public, convene not later than 1 year after the date of this order, and periodically thereafter at such times as the Chairman deems appropriate, a White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy (Conference) to facilitate the exchange of information and advice relating to the means for achieving the goals of this order.

Sec. 4. Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conservation Plan. The Chairman shall prepare, consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations, in coordination with the appropriate Federal agencies and in consultation with the Sporting Conservation Council, and in cooperation with State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, not later than 1 year following the conclusion of the Conference, a comprehensive Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan that incorporates existing and ongoing activities and sets forth a 10 year agenda for fulfilling the actions identified in section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, trust responsibility, or privilege, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 16, 2007.

ATTACHMENT 2

Wyoming Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation efforts

Field Office:		Responsible Resource Program:	
Project Name and RMP:		Project Lead Contact Name and Number:	
New Project: Yes No	If new, anticipated start date:		Anticipated Timeframe of Project:
Ongoing Project: Yes No	If ongoing, project start date:		Anticipated Timeframe of Project:
Partners and Contributions:			
WLCI/HLI project? Yes No			

Project Description (brief):

If ongoing project, project accomplishments to date:

Proposed North American Wildlife Policy Conference agenda items:

Staff Members available to serve on conference planning teams. Name and Title:

ATTACHMENT 2

Wyoming Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation efforts
[SAMPLE PROJECT 1]

Field Office: RSFO		Responsible Resource Program: All	
Project Name: Green River RMP		Project Lead Contact Name and Number: Renee Dana 307 352-0227	
New Project: Yes No X	If new, anticipated start date:	Anticipated Timeframe of Project:	
Ongoing Project: Yes X No	If ongoing, project start date: 1997	Anticipated Timeframe of Project: 20 years	
Partners and Contributions: Federal, Local and State Governments, publics and NGOs			
WLCI project? Yes No X			

Project Description (brief): The RMP objectives and actions provide for maintaining wildlife habitats and providing suitable habitat for Wyoming Game and Fish Department strategic plan objectives. The RMP also allows for public land retention, habitat improvements, and recreation use.

If ongoing project, project accomplishments to date: RMP conformance reviews ensure objectives are met. Implementation of RMPs includes on the ground habitat treatment projects, reclamation efforts, recreation improvements and all on-the ground activities.

Proposed North American Wildlife Policy Conference agenda items:

Staff Members available to serve on conference planning teams. Name and Title:

Wyoming Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation efforts
[SAMPLE PROJECT 2]

Field Office: RSFO, PFO, RFO, KFO		Responsible Resource Program:1776	
New Project:	Yes	If new, anticipated start date:	Anticipated Timeframe of Project:
No	X		
Ongoing Project:	Yes X	If ongoing, project start date:	Anticipated Timeframe of Project:
No		2007	20 years
Partners and Contributions: Federal, Local and State Governments, publics and NGOs			
WLCI project? Yes X No			

Project Description (brief): The WLCI is a long-term science-based effort to assess and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale in Southwest Wyoming, while facilitating responsible energy development. WLCI looks at habitat improvement projects, conservation efforts, and working with partners to continue to provide a diversity of the world class habitats found in southwest Wyoming.

If ongoing project, project accomplishments to date: Projects to regenerate aspen habitat, develop and improve wetland habitats, provide wildlife water, remove and control weeds, and treat vegetation to improve quality, quantity, and availability of forage.

Proposed North American Wildlife Policy Conference agenda items: HLI

Staff Members available to serve on conference planning teams. Name and Title:

Wyoming Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation Efforts

[SAMPLE PROJECT 3]

Field Office: Wyoming Plains - 860		Responsible Resource Program: Recreation and Visitor Services	
Project Name and RMP: Strawberry Fields Hunting Access (PLPW) - Rolling Prairie RMP		Project Lead Contact Name and Number: Jerry Joker (BLM) - Tommy Thumper (WGFD) (307) 688-1234 (307) 239-7890	
New Project: No	Yes	If new, anticipated start date: N/A	Anticipated Timeframe of Project: N/A
Ongoing Project: No	Yes	If ongoing, project start date: Began at start of 2006 hunting season (August)	Anticipated Timeframe of Project: Project currently under a 3 year (2006-2008) PLPW agreement with the XYZ Ranches
Partners and Contributions: Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) - Lead agency - In-kind services + costs. Est. expenses = \$ 3,000/yr. XYZ Ranches - participating partner - Coordination and limited supervision of activities. Est. expenses = \$ 500/yr. U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Coordinating partner - In-kind services + costs. Est. expenses = \$ 200/yr.			
WLCI/HLI project? Yes No			

Project Description (brief):

This is a hunter controlled access project that has the net benefit of "opening" more lands for hunting in grazing allotments than would otherwise be available for recreational hunting use. This initiative, known as "Private Lands / Public Wildlife", is managed by the WGFD, and results in a cooperative management agreement between the WGFD and private landowners that allows for some areas of a ranch that would normally be closed to hunters, to now be opened for hunting, while totally closing other pastures to hunting due to the presence of domestic livestock.

In this particular project (the Strawberry Fields Hunting Access), about 80,000 acres of mixed land ownerships will be opened for hunting, and about 25,000 acres will be closed to hunting. Previously, the entire XYZ ranches would have been closed to hunting because of the land-locked ownership pattern.

If ongoing project, project accomplishments to date:

As a result of this project, a calculated 320 more hunter days of recreational use have been realized in 2006 than had been observed annually in the previous 10 years.

Proposed North American Wildlife Policy Conference agenda items:

A presentation of the Strawberry Fields Hunting Access Project could be made to the conference if so desired.

Staff Members available to serve on conference planning teams. Name and Title:

Jerry Joker - Outdoor Recreation Specialist

Sally Sue Honyocker - Recreation Aid